THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the Nation on 15th August 2005 announced to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority. The matter has been discussed in the Planning Commission, in first meeting of Agriculture Coordination Committee and in the Committee of Secretaries.

Assistance to States for establishing agriculture research centres

3648. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to give financial assistance to establish State-level agriculture research centres to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the name of the scheme and its essential features;

(c) the name of the States who have sought financial and other assistance in this regard; and

(d) the States to whom assistance, if any has been granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Bio-Diesel Production

3649. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plants/crops have been identified in the country for bio-diesel production;